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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,074	03/15/2001	John M. Hall	10004376-1	9131

7590 08/19/2005

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/810,074

Applicant(s)

HALL ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 8, 17 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7, 9-16, 18, 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are subject to examination. Claims 2, 8, 17 and 19 are cancelled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/05/2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biliris et al. (US 2001/0009017) (hereinafter Biliris) in view of Jones (US 2001/0046069 A1)

Referring to claim 1,

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Biliris teaches a method of identifying whether a communication in a computer network is directed to a destination that is internal to a company, the computer network including a directory server, the directory server including a company directory that provides employee information 120 (Fig. 1; element 114, Paragraphs 0034 and 0043), the method comprising:

receiving destination information associated with a first network communication (Fig. 2B, block 252, Paragraph 0031); and

accessing the directory server and comparing the received destination information with information in the company directory. (Paragraph 0035; query database using an email address)

Biliris fails to teach determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory and adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate to recipients whether the first network communication is directed to at least one destination internal to the company.

Jones teaches determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory (para.[0003], [0018]), and adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate to recipients whether the first network communication is directed only to destinations internal to the company. (para.[0017]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory along with an identifier indicating whether the first network communication is only to destinations internal to the company to determine whether the mail was directed to a destination internal to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages.

Referring to claim 3,

Biliris teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the destination information specifies at least one email address (Paragraph 0034, 0035., example of a declarative address including an email address).

Referring to claim 4,

Biliris teaches the method of claim 3, and further comprising: determining whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory (para.[0025]).

Biliris fails to teach determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the determination of whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory.

Jones teaches in para.[0019], "The data base 401 contains a list of different potential message senders, a list showing different groups of potential message recipients, and a set of possible categories indicated by the setting of the various flags in a message. For example, the senders may fall into three groups designated sender groups S1, S2 and S3. The potential recipients can fall into three groups designated R1, R2, and R3. The data base 401 and the associated logic 402 can implement logic rules such as indicated by the table on page 2."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory to determine whether the mail was directed to a destination internal to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages.

Referring to claim 7,

Biliris teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the destination information specifies a plurality of destinations (Para. [0034], filters may be concatenated using logical operators', Paragraph 0035., filters may contain email addresses)

Biliris fails to teach that the method further comprises : identifying whether each of the plurality of destinations is internal to the company based on a comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory.

Jones teaches identifying whether each of the plurality of destinations is internal to the company based on a comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory (para.[0003], [0017], [0018]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory to identify whether the mail was directed to a destination internal to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para.[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages.

Referring to claim 9,

Biliris fails to teach the method of claim 7 further comprising: adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first network communication is directed to at least one destination external to the company.

Jones teaches adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate to recipients whether the first network communication is directed only to destinations external to the company. (para.[0017]).

Jones teaches in para.[0019], "The data base 401 contains a list of different potential message senders, a list showing different groups of potential message recipients, and a set of possible categories indicated by the setting of the various flags in a message. For example, the senders may fall into three groups designated sender

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groups S1, S2 and S3. The potential recipients can fall into three groups designated R1, R2, and R3. The data base 401 and the associated logic 402 can implement logic rules such as indicated by the table on page 2."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory to determine whether the mail was directed to a destination external to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages.

Referring to claim 12,

Biliris teaches the method of claim 1 , wherein the directory server is an LDAP server (Paragraph 0027).

Referring to claim 15,

Claim 15 is a claim to a network device configured to carry out the method steps of claim 1. Therefore claim 15 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Referring to claim 16,

Claim 16 is a claim to the network device configured to carry out the method steps of claim 2. Therefore claim 16 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 2.

Referring to claim 18,

Claim 18 is a claim to a computer readable medium having computer-executable

instructions for performing the method steps of claim 1. Therefore claim 18 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Referring to claim 20,

Claim 20 is a claim to a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method steps of claim 3. Therefore claim 20 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 3.

Referring to claim 21,

Claim 21 is a claim to a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method steps of claim 4. Therefore claim 21 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 4.

6. Claims 5, 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biliris et al. (US 2001/0009017) hereinafter Biliris in view of Jones (US 2001/0046069 A1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Joseph et al. (hereinafter Joseph) (US 5, 761, 415)

Referring to claim 5,

Biliris teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the destination information specifies at least one fax phone number (Para. [0022], [0025]), invention applicable to faxes, Para. [0034], any contact attribute may be used).

Referring to claim 6,

Keeping in mind the teachings of Biliris as stated above, Biliris teaches determining whether the specified at least one fax number is contained within the company

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directory.(Para. [0022], [0025]), invention applicable to faxes, Para. [0034], any contact attribute may be used).

Biliris fails to teach determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the determination of whether the specified at least one destination is contained within the company directory.

Jones teaches in para.[0019], "The data base 401 contains a list of different potential message senders, a list showing different groups of potential message recipients, and a set of possible categories indicated by the setting of the various flags in a message. For example, the senders may fall into three groups designated sender groups S1, S2 and S3. The potential recipients can fall into three groups designated R1, R2, and R3. The data base 401 and the associated logic 402 can implement logic rules such as indicated by the table on page 2."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory to determine whether the mail was directed to a destination internal to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages.

However, Biliris and Jones fail to teach determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company

based on the determination of whether the specified at least one fax number is contained within the company directory.

Joseph teaches in Abstract and in Fig. 2, "A naming service maintains lists of names for receiving messages, with the names having a defined format portion for routing messages in the network. At least some names have additional routing information that is passed to another server or service for routing the messages externally, such as with remote e-mail or facsimile transmission."

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones with Joseph to use the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory to determine whether the mail was directed to a destination internal to the company because they both deal with specifying addresses for outgoing email or outgoing fax. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages. Furthermore, the teaching of Joseph to transmit messages to external clients using different means than that used for internal clients results in a communications system that can accommodate recipients who cannot be reached using the internal communications system even though the internal and external recipients are contained in the same distribution list (Joseph, col. 4, lines 45-52).

Referring to claim 14,

Biliris in view of Jones as applied to claim 7, fails to teach the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting a version of the first network communication via a first

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communication method to destinations identified as internal to the company', and transmitting a version of the first network communication via a second communication method to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second communication method differing from the first communication method.

Joseph teaches the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting a version of the first network communication via a first communication method to destinations identified as internal to the company (col. 4, lines 10-16, internal messages sent over the LAN; and transmitting a version of the first network communication via a second communication method to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second communication method differing from the first communication method (col. 4, lines 37-44, external communications sent by remote email via smtp server).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Biliris and Joseph because they both deal with fax or email communications. Furthermore, the teaching of Jones, for example as shown in Table of para .[0019], keeps log of the messages sent to the recipients which are authorized to receive messages. Furthermore, the teaching of Joseph to transmit messages to external clients using different means than that used for internal clients results in a communications system that can accommodate recipients who cannot be reached using the internal communications system even though the internal and external recipients are contained in the same distribution list (Joseph, col. 4, lines 45-52).

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7. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over unpatentable over Biliris et al. (US 2001/0009017) (hereinafter Biliris) in view of Jones (US 2001/0046069 A1), as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Arnold (US 6,275,848).

Referring to claim 10,

Biliris in view of Jones fails to teach the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication via email to destinations identified as external to the company, and transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication to a web server.

Arnold teaches the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication via email to destinations identified as external to the company (col. 4, lines 19-24) transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication to a web server (col. 4, lines 19-22).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones with Arnold because they all involve email communications. Furthermore, the teaching of Arnold to transmit a portion of a network communication for external destinations and to transmit a portion to a web server would increase the efficiency of the transmission of large email messages by only transmitting attachments at the request of the recipients of the messages (Arnold, col. 2. lines 48-55).

Referring to claim 11,

Biliris in view of Jones fails to teach the method of claim 10, and further comprising: transmitting an email communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, the email communication including link information for accessing the information transmitted to the web server.

Arnold teaches transmitting an email communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, the email communication including link information for accessing the information transmitted to the web server (col. 2 lines 34-37).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Jones with Arnold to transmit an email communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, the email communication including link information for accessing the information transmitted to the web server because they both deal with transmission of information via email communications. Furthermore, Arnold teaches that transmitting an email communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, the email communication including link information for accessing the information transmitted to the web server allows managing access to the attachment if the information in the link is designated as confidential (col. 2, lines 56-61).

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biliris et al. (US 2001/0009017) (hereinafter Biliris) in view of Jones (US 2001/0046069 A1), as applied to claim 7 above,) and further in view of Shaw et al. (US 6,247,045) hereinafter Shaw.

Referring to claim 13,

Biliris in view of Jones as applied to claim 7, fails to teach the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting a first version of the first network communication to destinations identified as internal to the company', and transmitting a second version of the first network communication to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second version differing in content from the first version.

Shaw teaches the method of claim 7 further comprising: transmitting a first version of the first network communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, and transmitting a second version of the first network communication to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second version differing in content from the first version (col. 6, lines 4-13., different messages constructed based on designations of groups of users).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Biliris and Shaw to transmit different versions of a network communications to destinations internal and external to the company because they both deal with addressing email communications to groups of users. Furthermore, the teaching of Shaw to transmit different versions of a network communications to destinations internal and external to the company would alleviate the tedium of having to manually generate separate messages for internal and external users (col. 2, lines 3-5).

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the

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references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LARRY D. DONAGHUE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

